

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



Spays/neuters in detail

TNR and Foster/Adoption Teams

Every newsletter, FFN updates the number of spays/neuters performed through our TNR and Foster/Adoption programs, which you can find above this story under the cat. This month, we thought you might be interested in learning a bit more about what is behind those numbers.

So we tallied them up and, well, it's no wonder we're feeling a lot like the lady in this picture ↓. As of Thursday, 30 August 2018, FFN has spayed or neutered 124 cats and kittens since the beginning of this year. Fifty-three of the those cats were trapped/neutered/returned



Fostering a humbling experience

by Jamie Lamond

My husband and I were driving home from a concert at midnight and right before we turned into our country laneway we saw two glowing eyes on the road ahead of us. Being huge cat people – and knowing there are no outdoor cats living around us – we knew we had to investigate! After pulling up slowly and calling out the infamous “Here kitty kitty!” we found ourselves with a beautiful, friendly, and very pregnant cat.

With five household cats already, we knew we couldn't keep this mother-to-be and her unknown number of kittens. We also knew that Feline Friends Network was already heavily

/continued on page 2

continued on page 3

/continued from page 1

burdened with cats, many kittens, and more on the way. Having immediately become very much attached to our little rescue cat, who we named Marcy, we decided to become first-time fosters and keep mom and kittens at our home until they were ready to be fully weaned.

A few weeks after Marcy came to stay, it was kitten time! Luckily, we were home at the time, and I went into full “cat doula” mode to ensure their safe arrival. A few hours later, Miss Marcy was five kittens lighter. It was an amazing experience to be a part of, especially knowing that you have given five kittens a good chance at life, saving them from having to be born outside and battle the odds for their survival.

Since then, we have watched the five siblings grow from little mini-wigglers into kittens in full chase mode, running every which way. We have seen their individual personalities emerge and laughed at their kitten antics. We have discovered them sleeping in every possible spot imaginable, endured miniature ankle biters and shin attackers, and have been able to show our one-and-a-half-year-old son how to be gentle with them. It warms my heart when I see him sitting quietly with one of them, a ball being batted back and forth between kitten and child.

Fostering has meant so much to us. It’s been amazing to watch the kittens grow and thrive. It’s humbling to know that you were a part of saving a cat’s life – whether that of a kitten or a stray homeless cat like their mother Marcy, who needs time and love to recover from being abandoned. Our foster kittens have enriched our lives. But while we will be very sad to see them go, we will also be happy to know that each of them will add to someone else’s life, making a place in that person’s home and heart.

FFN is always looking for volunteers to foster cats and/or kittens. If you might be interested, please fill out an application at https://www.felinefriends.ca/ffn_foster_application.php.

On the front page, Marcy with her five day-old kittens.



From left to right, Earl, Mongo, and Nugget.



Jamie and her son with a couch full of kittens. From top to bottom), Millie, Flower, Earl, and Mongo.

Of Marcy’s five kittens, Mongo, Earl, Nugget and Flower would all love a forever home and may still be available to adopt! If you could provide a fur-ever home for one of these darlings, please fill out an application form at https://www.felinefriends.ca/ffn_pre_adoption_form.php.

A kitten is chiefly remarkable for rushing about like mad at nothing whatever, and generally stopping before it gets there.

– Agnes Repplier



to their caretakers. The other seventy-four were placed into our foster/adoption program. At this time, we still have five adult cats and twelve kittens (not all of whom have been spayed/neutered) in our foster/adoption program – and the phone keeps ringing asking us to help! A bumper crop of kittens – some in litters as large as 5-7 – have made it a crazy year, not just for FFN but for other cat rescues as well.

Of the cats S/N'd in 2018, just over half (64) were females, a few of whom had two litters this year alone before we either learned about them or were able to get them trapped. Using simple math and assuming that all 64 were old enough, if each female cat had had 2 litters of kittens – with an average of 5 kittens per litter – this year, they would have produced 640 kittens! In a single year! When you think about those numbers, it's pretty obvious why the cat overpopulation problem is so hard to control!

And if there is one message that FFN would like all of its members to spread to friends and family, it is to please, PLEASE, spay and neuter your cats! This is best done when they are young, in particular for female cats, who should be spayed before their first heat to reduce the risk of certain types of cancers.

We also want to say a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to those of you who make our work possible – the members who provide financial and volunteer support (fosters, drivers, etc.), the local pet stores that donate food/litter and raise money for us by holding fundraisers at their stores, and – last but definitely not least – the wonderful vets who give such great care to every FFN feline!

FUNDRAISING NEWS

FFN's annual Wine Raffle Fundraiser is currently underway with tickets available at a number of retail locations in Stratford, St Marys, and Tavistock as well as from many of our members. Each year, our goal is to be "sold out" before the draw date of Tuesday, 16 October 2018! Help us to reach that goal by purchasing a ticket or two for yourself or as a gift for a friend before they are gone!



IT'S BACK! NOV. 9, 2018

Mark your calendar now! It's our sixth annual Feline Film Fest, and this year we're showing only the BEST cat videos of the past five years! Join us for an evening of funny, fascinating felines plus silent auction, food and drink at Knox Church in Stratford. More details to follow in the next issue of Cat Tales and on our facebook page!

felinefriends.ca

feline
film
festival

Any cat who misses a mouse pretends it was aiming for the dead leaf. – Charlotte Gray

All cats like being the focus of attention. – Peter Gray



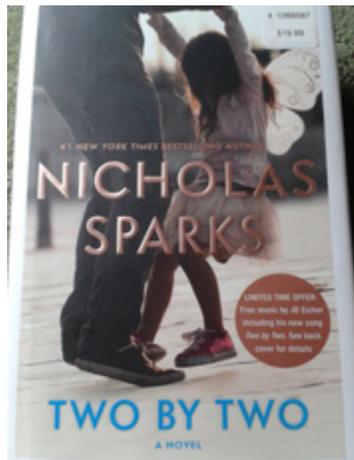
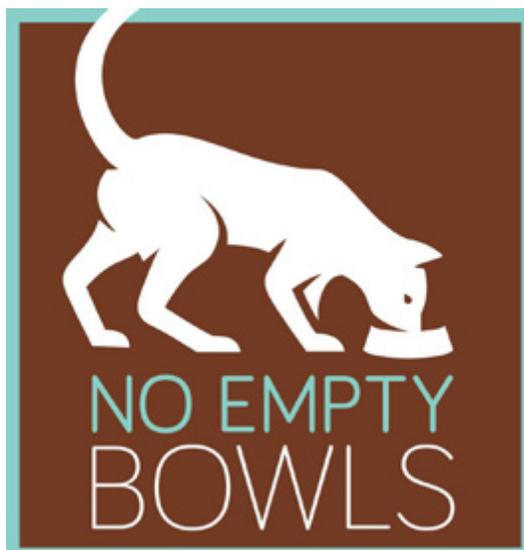
WISH LIST

If you would like to donate any of the following items this month, please send an email to info@felinefriends.ca to make arrangements for pickup or drop off.

- canned Friskies cat food
- Purina cat chow – blue bag
- Purina kitten chow – pink bag
- clumping and non-clumping kitty litter
- new toys
- catnip
- Litter Attract
- new wand toys
- gently used or new cat scratch posts/
climbing posts

NO EMPTY BOWLS PET FOOD BANK STRATFORD

Is someone you know finding it difficult to afford pet food? No Empty Bowls Pet Food Bank Stratford may be able to help. No Empty Bowls aims to provide food to owners of any kind of pet to make sure that companion animals don't go hungry during challenging times. To request food visit <https://www.facebook.com/noemptybowlsstratford> or call 519.814.7883. Delivery of food is not provided. Please give the food bank at least 48 hours to make arrangements for food pick up. Services are subject to the availability of donated pet food.



Going once ... going twice ... sold!

Stayed tuned to Facebook for our next online auction fundraiser. There will be a lot of new (and gently used) items up for bid by the end of September.

Help us gain new buyers by sharing the Facebook posts with your Stratford and area friends and family (unfortunately, items cannot be shipped at this time). Express your creativity with a zentangle, relax with a cup of tea and a good book, or throw a homemade pizza party for friends and family. The items pictured above are just a few of the many things that will be up for grabs in FFN's fall auction!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

